

## **Trailer Bill Proposal to Help Counties Combat Homelessness**

### **The Request**

The County of Los Angeles is seeking the enactment of trailer bill language to grant counties the authority to seek voter approval to impose a special tax on personal annual income above \$1 million to combat homelessness.

### **What is the Problem?**

The homeless crisis in Los Angeles County has been worsening and demands an urgent, coordinated response from the State, County, cities, and community partners throughout the region. The overall number of homeless people in Los Angeles County on a given night increased to 46,874 in 2016, which is 6% more than in 2015 and 19% more than in 2013. The subset of homeless people living in encampments, tents and vehicles increased by 20% from 2015 to 2016 and a staggering 123% from 2013 to 2016<sup>1</sup>.

### **The Need for New Resources**

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority estimates that \$450 million in additional, ongoing funding is needed to address the current gap in homeless housing and services, excluding any costs associated with housing construction.

### **What the County of Los Angeles Has Done**

In August 2015, in response to the homelessness crisis which pervades Los Angeles County, the County launched the Homeless Initiative, a countywide effort to develop a comprehensive set of County strategies to combat homelessness. The inclusive, collaborative planning process brought together 25 County departments, 30 cities and over 100 community organizations, service providers and advocates.

On February 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the coordinated set of 47 strategies in 6 categories: Prevent Homelessness; Subsidize Housing; Increase Income; Provide Case Management and Services; Create a Coordinated System; and Increase Affordable/Homeless Housing. These strategies strengthen and build on current County efforts and leverage mainstream criminal justice, health, and social services. To launch initial implementation of these strategies, the Board allocated \$100 million in one-time funding, while emphasizing the critical need for ongoing revenue to sustain the strategies.

### **Why We Need Ongoing Revenue**

It is impossible to solve an ongoing problem with one-time funding. The County conducted a poll to determine voter support for potential revenue-raising measures. The most popular option is a tax on personal income above \$1 million/year which is supported by 76% of likely voters in the November 2016 election. A one-half percent millionaires' tax is estimated to generate \$243 million per year in Los Angeles County.

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<sup>1</sup> 2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority